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**REMARKS**

This Amendment is filed in response to the FINAL Office Action mailed on May 12, 2004. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-8 and 10-29 re pending in the application.

No claims were amended.

No claims were added.

At Paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action claims 21-25, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinchey, et al. U. S. Patent No. 5,999,541 issued December 7, 1999 (hereinafter Hinchey) in view of Periasamy et al. U. S. Patent 6,065,062 issued May 16, 2000 (hereinafter Periasamy).

Applicant's claimed invention, as set forth in representative claim 21, comprises in part:

21. A method for operating a router, comprising:

*exchanging capabilities exchange messages with a remote router to inform said remote router that said router supports RIF passthrough capability;*

*receiving, in response to said remote router learning that said router supports RIF passthrough capability, a first control vector from said remote router, said first control vector having source route information from a routing information field (RIF) of a first token ring (TR) explorer frame transmitted by a source end station on a first TR net-*

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*work, said first control vector created at said remote router connected to said first TR network;*

*extracting said source route information from said first control vector;*

*loading said extracted source route information into a RIF of a second TR explorer frame; and*

*transmitting said second TR explorer frame on a second TR network to a destination end station to provide said destination end station with complete source route information representative of an end-to-end session with said source end station.*

Hinchey discloses a computer network having a first token ring network connected to an Ethernet network, and the Ethernet network coupled to a second token ring network. Hinchey gives a method for sending a token ring data frame from the first token ring network, through the Ethernet network, to the second token ring network.

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Applicant respectfully urges that Periasamy is precluded under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) against the present Application for U. S. Patent. Periasamy and the present invention were both owned by Cisco Technology, Inc., at the time that the invention was made.

The statute 35 U.S.C. 103(c) states as follows:

"Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person."

The present application was assigned to Cisco Technology, Inc. by Assignment recorded at Reel/Frame 9806/0764 on March 4, 1999.

Periasamy was assigned to Cisco Technology, Inc. by Assignment recorded at Reel/Frame 8911/0111 on December 10, 1997.

Accordingly, both the cited patent and the present Application for U. S. Patent were owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person at the time that the invention was made.

Filing date of the present Application: March 4, 1999.

Filing date of Periasamy: December 10, 1997.

Issue date of Periasamy: May 16, 2000.

Analysis with respect to sections of 35 U.S.C. § 102

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless--

102(a) "the invention . . . was patented . . . in this . . . country . . . before the invention thereof by the applicant"

Analysis: Periasamy does not qualify as prior art under 102(a) because the invention was invented by Applicant before patenting by Periasamy, as Applicant's filing date precedes issue of Periasamy's patent.

102(b) "the invention was patented . . . more than one year prior to the date of the application for patent in the United States"

Analysis: Periasamy does not qualify as prior art under 102(b) because the patent was filed before patenting by Periasamy.

102(c) "he has abandoned the invention"

Analysis: Periasamy does not qualify as prior art under 102(c) because Applicant has not abandoned the present invention.

102(d) "the invention was first patented or caused to be patented . . . in a foreign country prior to the date of the application for patent in this country on an application for patent . . . filed more than twelve months before the filing of the application in the United States"

Analysis: Periasamy does not qualify as prior art under 102(d) because the present invention was not filed in a foreign country before filing in the United States.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that Periasamy qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), 102(f), or 102(g), and therefore is legally precluded from serving as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) by operation of 35 U.S.C. 103(c).

Applicant respectfully urges that the Hinchey patent is silent concerning Applicant's claimed novel:

*exchanging capabilities exchange messages with a remote router to inform said remote router that said router supports RIF passthrough capability;*

*receiving, in response to said remote router learning that said router supports RIF passthrough capability, a first control vector from said remote router, said first control vector having source route information from a routing information field (RIF) of a first token ring (TR) explorer frame transmitted by a source end station on a first TR network, said first control vector created at said remote router connected to said first TR network;*

*extracting said source route information from said first control vector;*

*loading said extracted source route information into a RIF of a second TR explorer frame; and*

*transmitting said second TR explorer frame on a second TR network to a destination end station to provide said destination end station with complete source route information representative of an end-to-end session with said source end station.*

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First, Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's *exchanging capabilities exchange messages with a remote router to inform said remote router that said router supports RIF passthrough capability*. Hinchey simply discloses a particular method for encapsulating a token ring packet in an Ethernet frame. Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's *exchanging capabilities exchange messages*.

Second, Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's claimed *receiving, in response to said remote router learning that said router supports RIF passthrough capability, a first control vector from said remote router, said first control vector having source route information from a routing information field (RIF) of a first token ring (TR) explorer frame transmitted by a source end station on a first TR network, said first control vector created at said remote router connected to said first TR network*. Again, Hinchey simply discloses one particular way to encapsulate a token ring frame in an Ethernet frame, and Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's *receiving, in response to said remote router learning that said router supports RIF passthrough capability, a first control vector from said remote router*.

Third, Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's claimed *extracting said source route information from said first control vector*. Again,

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Hinchey simply discloses one particular way to encapsulate a token ring frame in an Ethernet frame, and Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's *extracting said source route information from said first control vector*.

Fourth, Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's claimed *loading said extracted source route information into a RIF of a second TR explorer frame*. Again, Hinchey simply discloses one particular way to encapsulate a token ring frame in an Ethernet frame, and Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's *loading said extracted source route information into a RIF of a second TR explorer frame*.

Fifth, Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's claimed *transmitting said second TR explorer frame on a second TR network to a destination end station to provide said destination end station with complete source route information representative of an end-to-end session with said source end station*.

Again, Hinchey simply discloses one particular way to encapsulate a token ring frame in an Ethernet frame, and Hinchey has no disclosure of Applicant's *transmitting said second TR explorer frame on a second TR network to a destination end station*.

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In summary, Hinchey discloses one particular way to encapsulate a token ring frame in an Ethernet frame, but is silent as to how a router learns what information to place in the encapsulated frame.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey is legally precluded from rendering the present invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) because of the absence from Hinchey of Applicant's claimed novel:

*exchanging capabilities exchange messages with a remote router to inform said remote router that said router supports RIF passthrough capability;*

*receiving, in response to said remote router learning that said router supports RIF passthrough capability, a first control vector from said remote router, said first control vector having source route information from a routing information field (RIF) of a first token ring (TR) explorer frame transmitted by a source end station on a first TR network, said first control vector created at said remote router connected to said first TR network;*

*extracting said source route information from said first control vector;*

*loading said extracted source route information into a RIF of a second TR explorer frame; and*



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*transmitting said second TR explorer frame on a second TR network to a destination end station to provide said destination end station with complete source route information representative of an end-to-end session with said source end station.*

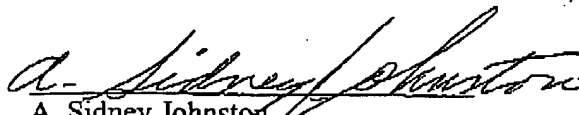
All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims, and therefore in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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